

Bangalore Mirror

ON SATURDAY

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Do you know what's a heady cocktail? Skywalk with gaping stair through which traffic racing below is visible from a height AT A PLACE CALLED VERTIGO

Seniors feel dizzy, women uncomfortable using Ballari Road skywalk

I Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) deserves appreciation for constructing a massive skywalk on Ballari Road near Ramana Maharshi Park for the benefit of pedestrians to reach from one side to the other of a busy road. Crores of rupees were spent by the BBMP towards its construction. The skywalk is yet to be inaugurated officially, but pedestrians have begun using it.

Here is the feedback: This skywalk is highly unusable for senior citizens and women. They complain that they feel dizziness while climbing or descending the stairs. The problem with the skywalk is that there are gaps between mild steel (MS) sections of the steps resulting in a sense of dizziness to senior citizens.

"I thank the BBMP for setting up the much-needed skywalk on this road and it is coming up nicely, but the skywalk has a minor flaw in the design of the steps of the stair. There are gaps in between the MS sections of the steps

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >>



Contact number board at skywalk near Mehkri Circle vandalised

“The skywalk is a must on this busy road. BBMP must complete the pending works and open the escalator for the public

— Mohan S, a pedestrian BM spoke to

What a snag

Women turn up at Bangalore One centre, wait for hours as technical snags hit Gruha Lakshmi registrations



I Sridhar Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

The Gruha Jyothi scheme, aimed at providing free power, initially faced technical snags, causing disruptions during registration. However, as days progressed, the registration process became smoother. The initial technical snag led the State Government to postpone the launch of the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, which offers Rs 2,000 to women heading their families. Now, with the Gruha Lakshmi scheme officially commencing in the State, many individuals also encountered the pain of technical snags, leaving them feeling helpless. Almost all Bangalore One centres in the city have been witnessing a huge crowd from early morning, with predominantly women standing for hours, attempting to get themselves registered in vain.

Harini, a beneficiary, expressed her frustration, saying, "We have been informed that the server issues are causing delays in the registration process. It takes more than half an hour for every individual to get registered. Now imagine with such a huge crowd and people waiting for half an hour to get registered, it can significantly delay the entire process."

Many women said that they have sent an SMS for registration, but have not

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 >>

Gear up for VK Street Sambhrama

Reclaim the streets with fun and entertainment in Jayanagar tomorrow

It is time to reclaim the streets as Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror come together to organise VK Street Sambhrama at Jayanagar 4th T Block on Sunday. This vibrant event is set to take place in front of Nandanavana Children's Playground, and it has garnered immense anticipation from people across the city.

In collaboration with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the police, and various other organisations, VK Street Sambhrama is a grand celebration of life, entertainment, and culture. This delightful programme will cater to all age groups, promising a memorable experience for everyone involved.



The festivities will commence at 7 am and will include customised programmes for all age groups

reience for everyone involved.

Renowned celebrities from the entertainment industry, including Samyukta Hornad, Chaitra J Achar, and the talented Musician Vasuki Vaibhav, are all set to grace the occasion. The event promises a delightful dose of entertainment, featuring numerous games, music, fun, and dance performances.

VK Street Sambhrama has been

scheduled for Sunday to ensure people from all walks of life can participate. The festivities will commence at 7 am and will include customised programmes suitable for all age groups. The event will conclude at 11 am.

Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya and Jayanagar MLA CK Ramamurthy will grace the occasion.

The action-packed lineup of pro-

grammes includes a Dance fitness programme by the dynamic Aishwarya Menon, a Fitness awareness programme by the fitness enthusiast Bhavana Uday Kumar, and a yogasana programme by the yoga expert Chaitra Amar. For those with a creative flair, there will be a spot painting activity, allowing them to showcase their artistic talents.

In an effort to revive traditional

games and foster a sense of nostalgia, VK Street Sambhrama will feature games like kunte bille, lagore, and buguri, bringing back memories of childhood fun. Additionally, attendees can indulge in the rhythmic beats of beatboxing, participate in a tug of war, lemon and spoon races, and enjoy caricature sessions. Food enthusiasts can delight in the variety of food shops available on the premises, serving up delectable treats for all taste buds. The organisers have ensured that the event is accessible to all by offering free entry, ensuring that nobody misses out. —Prakash VL

Venue

In front of Nandanavana Children's Playground
18th main, 4th T Block,
Ward 168
Pattabhinagar, Jayanagar

Time

7 am to 11 am
Entry is free

Chief Guest:
Tejasvisurya
Member of Parliament,
Bangalore South

Chief Guest:
Sri C.K.Ramamurthy
MLA, Jayanagar Constituency

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Samyukta Hornad, Vasuki Vaibhav and Chaitra J Achar will grace the event

VK STREET SAMBRAMA

VIJAY KARNATAKA, Kannada's No.1 daily with the largest readership, is celebrating **VK Street Sambrama** in Collaboration with BBMP & Police Department. Do come with your family and enjoy the day with Sandalwood Celebrities.

Dance Fitness Aishwarya Menon Bhavana Uday Kumar	Yoga by Chaitra B.G Tug of War, Caricature
Painting Competition for Kids Kuntebille, Lagori, Bugari	Health Camp, Lemon & Spoon Race Chat with Celebrities
Rangoli competition for women Beat Boxing	Including Flea Market Many entertainment programs

Venue:
In front of Nandanavana Children's Play Ground,
18th Main, 4th T Block, Ward-168,
Pattabhiramnagar, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560095

Date:
23rd July, Sunday
Tomorrow 7 AM to 11 AM

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Event Partner: Thoughts & Ideas

Come, Let's Play & Have a fun filled day !!

Doctors explore rare cardiac intervention

Senior citizen undergoes critical procedure in city hospital

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Recently, a team of doctors performed what the hospital says is a rare procedure in cardiology at Aster RV Hospital in Bengaluru. The procedure involved valve implementation, specifically, transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) through the carotid route.

The hospital stressed that this is a valuable advancement in the medical field and that awareness must be raised about the existence of this method.

Its value lies in being a cutting-edge, advanced cardiology procedure, and the team has been a frontrunner in this field, the hospital added.

The implant was done successfully on a senior citizen with underlying co-morbid health conditions, making the case challenging for the cardiologists. An artificial valve was implanted in the heart of an elderly gentleman through the carotid artery, an artery that exists in the neck region and is responsible for supplying blood to the brain.

"Typically, the treatment of severe aortic stenosis is by replacement of the patient's valve with an artificial or prosthetic valve, performed often by open heart surgery—Surgical Aortic Valve Replacement (SAVR). In the last few years, the replacement can also be done without heart surgery by a procedure called



The hospital claimed that this was a unique advancement

Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR or TAVI, in short)," said Dr S Venkatesh, Lead Consultant, Interventional Cardiology, Aster RV Hospital.

This entails the delivery of a prosthetic valve to the heart via the artery in the groin or thigh (somewhat similar to a stent procedure for blockages

Typically, the treatment of severe aortic stenosis is by replacement of the patient's valve with an artificial or prosthetic valve

—Dr S Venkatesh

in the arteries of the heart). This is preferred over SAVR in patients who are deemed unfit for open heart surgery, he explained.

Commenting on the surgery, Dr Divakar Bhat, Consultant, CTVS Surgery, Aster RV Hospital, said, "The patient is a 73-year-old gentleman who had undergone a bypass surgery in the past, and his heart pumping capacity is reduced. He is undergoing regular dialysis for renal failure. He was recently admitted with severe breathlessness and was discovered to have severe aortic stenosis. Upon discussion with the cardiac surgeon and cardiac anaesthetist, the surgical risk of complications for SAVR was determined to be very high, and hence he was advised of the TAVR procedure."

Time to ask more questions

Experts stand for ways in which constitutional values can be adopted by school-going children; say kids need to create dialogues and debates around topics like liberty

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A conversation on how classrooms can be different and ways in which constitutional values can be imbibed was discussed in a panel discussion at the Bangalore International Centre on Thursday. The event was conducted by Teach for India, which has been building leaders to transform the lives of students in the short term.

Khushi Chauhan, a TFI school alumna and True School of Music student, said, "I love teaching because I want to create value-based learning and social-emotional learning in a classroom. It's about creating an experience for kids that not only stays with them but also sets values that they will remember forever. School systems just make you conform to the system, and if the values of the constitution were more imbibed in

the culture and community of our school, we would have children who would stand up and ask questions about the rules in school."

She added that kids have to create dialogues and debates around topics like liberty and justice. It would not have been a power dynamic but the student teacher partnership would be equal.

Other speakers talked about their experience setting up a school.

"I had 2% attendance in high school. I got to see what grinding poverty and a lack of opportunity can do to people. I wanted to be someone who brought more truth and justice to the world. I truly believed in unity in diversity. I moved to India in December 1992, and the immigration gave me a tough time, asking about my religion and so forth," said Nooraine Fazal, co-founder of Venture Academy.

At the India forum in Delhi, she



Discussion on constitutional values to be imbibed in classrooms

put out the question, 'In a country where millions go to sleep at night without food and millions are out of school, how can India shine?' She then took up the decision to set up a school.

"We run programmes aimed at teaching children how to exercise their voice and their rights and re-

sponsibilities as citizens. This can be humanity's century, but we have to fix the education system. We have to build it on the vision and values that our forefathers had for us," she explained.

Furthermore, Nimish Patel, a musician and member of Manav Sadhna, said, "I moved to India and connect-

ed with this NGO. They had brought a musical production called 'Ekta'. On the show, I was blown away to see 14 children from slum communities in Ahmedabad representing the values of Mahatma Gandhi through dance and drama. It triggered me to be a part of it. I'm here because of those children. There is so much power in using the arts as a tool to transform. I feel a different sense of warmth in our children, and I feel connected."

Nooraine also talked about how children can be taught about the Constitution. "Teach them the relevance of the values. Not just in terms of freedom struggle and doing it through case studies, legal cases, and understanding fundamental rights. Giving them multiple forums is important. For example, when Bengaluru was considered the most unsafe place for schools in India, we brought in 1,050 children from government, private, and other schools. We gave them a platform where they could voice their views," she said.

Milk dearer by ₹3 per litre

Customers will soon have to pay more for their kitchen bills as the price of milk is on the rise. The government has decided to increase the selling price of milk by Rs 3 per litre in Karnataka from August 1.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah responded to the appeal by "KMF" and District Cooperative Milk Unions for a price rise. Following a meeting with Cooperative Minister KN Rajanna, State Cooperative Milk Producers Mahamandal (KMF), Presidents, Directors, and senior officials of District Cooperative Milk Unions, a decision to raise the selling price of milk was taken.

KMF President Bhima Naik addressed reporters after the meeting, stating that the selling price of milk will now be Rs 5 per litre, a demand they had been advocating for, and the Chief Minister agreed to the Rs 3 increase. The primary focus is to ensure that the entire benefit of this price increase reaches the milk producers.

An official order will be issued following the cabinet meeting's approval regarding the price increase for milk, as well as for milk products and milk powder, which are also proposed to be raised. The Nandini brand, known across the state



and nation, experienced a decline in milk production due to the skin disease in heifers. However, the situation has now improved, and milk production is steadily increasing. KMF aims to excel in serving the interests of both farmers and consumers by providing quality milk, curd, and ghee.

Minister Rajanna emphasised that an increase in the selling price of milk was necessary to benefit the milk producers, ensuring that the entire dividend of the price increase is transferred to them.

Addressing the price difference, it was noted that there is a substantial disparity in prices of KMF's Nandini and private dairy brands in Karnataka compared to neighboring states. Presently, Nandini milk is priced at Rs 39 per litre, while other brands like Dodla, Heritage, Tirumala, Govardhan, Aorkya, and Jersey range between Rs 48 to Rs 52 per litre. BMB

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REARVIEW MIRROR

Write to us at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com

Of ground control & space missions

What is really going on? On the one hand a terrible situation is boiling over in Manipur. On the other, an ambitious mission is heading towards the moon. Something is amiss however.

The level of dissonance at play in the world's most populous nation should turn some heads and help the people pose some relevant questions about the direction in which we are headed.

The latest in the Manipur turmoil was instances of social life turned completely upside down: pure chaos. A return to normalcy seems a distant mirage. What are we doing to a people?

It took almost over a month for the prime minister to speak publicly of the deteriorating situation. When he did, it made international headlines. The national press did not consider it so newsworthy.

As opposition uproar adjourned the houses of parliament demanding a discussion over the lawlessness and social upheaval in the northeastern state, one is left to wonder what are our priorities in 2023.

The situation in Manipur could have been reined in - that social division was allowed to fester under state watch is not only appalling but one of the most horrific crimes. When all control is lost on the ground as communities kill each other - brandish severed heads, rape and parade tribal women on the streets - what good is a journey to explore space?

Recognising the pattern is immensely important at this juncture if we as a collective have to get a grip on the situation and indeed salvage it from the brink. At a time when the world is thrown from the aftermath of one catastrophe to another festering social division is policy. Social inequity in the time of the climate emergency is deadly.

The terrifying news agenda that pushes hard for social division could not be more timely than at present - for the opportunist coteries that are at work around the world. The one thing that is overlooked in this melee is compassion for the disenfranchised caught in the frontlines of all that is in disarray in the world at the moment. Surely, the subcontinent is one of the most vulnerable places to be when the resultant chaos unfurls.

But here we are: lost in the rehabilitation of cheetahs and a mission to the moon. In total, eight cheetahs have died in what is an absolute failure of a project that in the first place should not have been pursued as suggested by many experts in the field at the outset. But still we went ahead and made a spectacle of the cheetahs too just as though it was one of



those Vande Bharat trains that were being flagged off.

The media jumping up and down while the cats were being introduced were nowhere to be seen when one by one the cats succumbed in unfamiliar territory and terrain perhaps of sheer exhaustion or stress if you like. That you do not have the minimal amount of care for the most vulnerable millions in a pluralistic and diverse society like ours is one thing. You bring wildlife from another geography and grandstand that you have mastered even evolution of fauna is at the most laughable. And when it all crumbles, the losers are the hapless creatures that journeyed from another continent.

So when would we see certain measures for the people in this geography? Surely we have not seen such measures in several years now. The pattern is of social division after division. Perhaps the country would have been in a better place to deal with the challenges put forth by the invasion of tech, aftermath of the climate crisis or the bleak economic outlook amid rising joblessness and inflation if we had managed to stay away from policies that perpetuate social disharmony.

Now what could be done to bring about a much needed transformation in this approach that is not only seemingly incompetent but shall set us back to the dark ages when a forward looking, compassionate, humane and honest way of looking at the modern day challenges is called for.

Perhaps a regime change, which is what democracy is for, This in fact turns our gaze to the most recent formation of an alliance of opposition parties namely INDIA - Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance. Now that an alliance has come forth ironing out long standing differences, perhaps the constituents should have a closer look at the recent thumping victory of the Congress in Karnataka that managed to win against money, muscle and the arrogant othering of peoples that has become a favourite pastime of the current dispensation.

How far such a frail gathering could hold forth against a powerful incumbent is to be seen - but yes, we are a country that was birthed by non-violence and compassion for the other, not by othering of the other.

An idea: Study students' commute for ridership

Connectivity key, expert also suggests issuing student passes for Metro

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In Chennai, Metro rail officials have begun to conduct surveys among students in colleges. The move has come as an effort to boost student ridership. Currently, their patronage stands at 32% on a daily basis. They have made note of 28 colleges within a radius of one km across 41 metro stations for survey purposes. Experts are of the opinion that the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL) should take up such an initiative to increase its student ridership.

Officials in Chennai are gathering information regarding the students' mode of commute, and the distance between their residence and college to the nearest metro station. Along with this, students are also being asked their preferred choice of first and last-mile connectivity, which will make their travel in the metro a viable option. An official has also said that they have been providing presentations to demonstrate how convenient travel in the metro could turn out to be.

Sanjana Rao, a student from Bengaluru Institute of Technology (BIT), said that she opted to travel through the metro as both her first and last-mile connections were at a walkable distance. "The Rajajinagar metro station was very close to my house and the National College metro station was only a road away from my college. Feeder buses in the city are restricted only to a few areas like Vasanth Nagar and there is



Students take Metro if there is first and last mile connectivity

nothing specific for students," she said, explaining that the BMRL can collaborate with college authorities to ensure connectivity. "The college can also provide some buses to students. BMS College of Engineering (BMSCE) is also in the vicinity but their college is not at a walkable distance from the metro station. Students should at least pay Rs 100 for auto," she said, adding that if the BMRL ensured last and first-mile connectivity for students, may switch to travel in the metro.

BMRL Chief Public Relations Officer (PRO) BL Yeshwanth Chavan told Bangalore Mirror that they have trying to provide first and last-mile connectivity through feeder buses. "You can see the feeder bus services used in Vasanth Nagar by Mount Carmel College students. We are trying our best to improve connectivity. There are also many BMTC buses on normal routes that serve the purpose of the first and last mile. The public must make use

“There are also many BMTC buses on normal routes that serve the purpose of the first and last mile

—BL Yeshwanth Chavan, BMRL

of it too," he said.

Rajkumar Dugar, a public transport enthusiast and founder of C4C, said that if the BMRL provides student passes like the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), patronage of students will increase. "As such, the fare of the metro is much higher than the BMTC. Even if the educational institution is near a metro station, one will think twice as travel with BMTC is much more economical," he said. He added that the student movement timings do not clash with the office-going crowd.

Thanks for skywalk, but fix the flaw please

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

resulting in dizziness to senior citizens because the ground is visible from a height and the traffic is moving at high speed," said Anil Srinivas, a resident of Sadashiv Nagar.

Anil Srinivas said the skywalks are also a gross violation of women's safety as the gaps in the steps leave them exposed to the people on the ground. "I suggest to the BBMP to ensure that the gaps between the MS sections are welded and this just would barely add to the cost. BBMP authorities must fix this issue as early as possible," he said.

On Thursday, Bangalore Mirror saw two senior citizens who were struggling to descend from the stairs of the skywalk. "I thank the BBMP for making this skywalk as it has become easy for me to reach the other side of the road but I feel tired and dizzy while descending the stairs. I have to use this skywalk to reach the other side to pick up my grandson," said Jayashree

Skywalk downfall

There is nothing to celebrate about the condition of the skywalk near Mehkri Circle Bus Stop. Both the lifts are not functioning. The skywalk with lift facility was inaugurated by the then Minister for Transport Ramalinga Reddy on April 17, 2005. The then Union Law Minister DV Sadananda Gowda was the chief guest. There is a contact number to inform the authorities concerned if the lift is not working but some miscreants have scratched one to two figures from each of the contact numbers. An uneven grating below the skywalk poses danger not only to pedestrians but also to two-wheeler riders. Pedestrians have complained that the lifts on both sides were not functioning for quite a long time.

Prabhakaran, a resident from Vyalikaval.

Some pedestrians BM spoke to

suggested to the BBMP to make arrangements for the inauguration of the escalator which is yet to be open to the public. "The escalator will be a great help for women and senior citizens. I am finding it a little bit difficult to descend the stairs. I have to use this skywalk to pick up my son who is waiting on the other side of the road after alighting from the school van," said Reshma, a resident of Malleswaram.

Also appreciating the BBMP for constructing the skywalk, Mohan S, a pedestrian, said the BBMP must focus on the maintenance of the escalator and the skywalk after it is officially opened. "It serves no purpose if the BBMP forgets about this skywalk as soon as it is opened by the Chief Minister or one of the Ministers. The skywalk is a must on this busy road. BBMP must complete the pending works and open the escalator for the public," said Mohan.

BBMP Executive Engineer (Traffic Engineering Cell) Balaji assured us that he would look into the matter.

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Gust & glory: B'luru, brace for winds of 40-50 kmph

Met dept predicts heavy winds; cool and light rainy weather for at least 2 days

Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Are you finding Bengaluru quite windy? Brace for more. The Meteorological Department has predicted heavy winds in the city. A Prasad, a scientist at the Met department, stated on Friday, "For the next two days, one can expect strong surface winds in Bengaluru. The surface winds are likely to be strong and gusty, reaching up to 40 to 50 kmph. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be between 28 and 21 degrees Celsius."

Prasad further explained, "On Thursday, it was noticed that a sheer zone is running 20 degrees north between 3.1 and 6 km, and the sheer zone persists on Friday as well at the same latitude and same height. Secondly, westerly winds flowing towards the west coast are becoming stronger at lower tropospheric levels. Due to these two factors, the monsoon is likely to remain active for the next five days." The next 48 hours are expected to be generally cloudy with light rain likely in some areas of the City.

According to the rainfall statistics from June 1 till today, the state has received normal rainfall in coastal and north interior regions. The deficit stands at -18% for coastal regions and -7% for north interior regions, while south interior regions are slightly deficient at -29%. Four districts in the



The surface winds are likely to be strong and gusty for the next two days

state have received excess rainfall - Kalaburagi, Bidar, Chitradurga, and Vijayanagar. Fourteen districts, including Bengaluru, have received normal rainfall.

On Friday, Linganamakki (Shivamogga district) received 12 cm of rainfall, Kadra and Gersoppa (both in Uttara Kannada district) received 11 cm each. Kollur (Udupi district), Siddapur, Yellapur (both in Uttara Kannada district), and Hunchadakatte (Shivamogga district) received 10 cm each.

With monsoon becoming ac-

Due to factors such as sheer zone and westerly winds, monsoon is likely to remain active for the next five days

-A Prasad, Met Dept scientist

tive, heavy rainfall Warning: Heavy to very heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places over Belagavi district of North Interior Karnataka.

Heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places over all the districts of Coastal Karnataka, over Kalaburgi, Bidar, Raichur, and Yadgir districts of North Interior Karnataka, and Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu, Shivamogga districts of South Interior Karnataka. Prasad said thunderstorms with lightning are likely to occur at isolated places over North Interior Karnataka. Gusty winds are likely with wind speed reaching 40-50 kmph over Interior Karnataka and 30-40 kmph over Coastal Karnataka.

Rapid urbanisation killing our lakes

Research highlights alarming results of deteriorating water quality

Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In a study conducted by researchers from Rajasthan's BITS Pilani, the water quality index (WQI) of four lakes in Bengaluru was calculated. The WQI values of Hebbal Lake, Ulsoor Lake, Allasandra Lake, and Mahadevapura Lake were calculated based on 10 parameters. The findings reveal alarming results that water in Hebbal and Allasandra is in the poor category, Ulsoor Lake water falls under the very poor category and water in Mahadevapura Lake is unfit for any kind of consumption.

WQI of Hebbal Lake was calculated to be in the range of 70.89 - 72.74, Ulsoor Lake was in the 83.44 - 83.3 range, water quality in Allasandra Lake fell in the 54.47-51.84 range and Mahadevapura Lake ranged between 159.41 and 155.81. The 10 parameters considered included pH, turbidity, total alkalinity,



Lake activists and experts emphasised on the importance of such detailed investigations for water body conservation

total acidity, total phosphorus, COD, BOD, DO, nitrates, and total nitrogen content.

The research, which involved the analysis of water samples collected during February, March, and April 2022, attributed the poor water quality of these lakes to anthropogenic activities and the inflow of untreated sewage. The physicochemical analysis revealed the severity of pollution and helped identify the urgent need for the

conservation, monitoring, and rejuvenation of these water bodies.

Lake activists and experts in Bengaluru emphasised the importance of such detailed investigations for water body conservation. They noted that current monitoring practices by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) lack transparency and hinder effective conservation efforts. The KSPCB currently monitors 123 lakes in the city and publishes lake water

sample classification reports under the Monitoring of Indian National Aquatic Resource System (MINARS) program by MOEF&CC. However, the reports only indicate the water quality through designated best use (DBU) parameters without disclosing the physio-chemical parameters used for the determination.

Experts urged the KSPCB to follow the example of other State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) across the country, which provide more comprehensive water quality data in the public domain. They highlighted the need for KSPCB to disclose a minimum of 5-10 basic physio-chemical parameters, such as pH, conductivity, BOD, total coliform, fecal coliform, and DO values, to enable local communities, lake activists, and conservation groups to take timely measures to curb pollution and prevent further deterioration of water quality.

In light of these findings, it is expected that the Central Pollution Control Board will intervene and advise the KSPCB to improve its reporting practices.

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Junction peril
Manipal Junction



There is a critical safety concern at Manipal Hospital Junction. With schools and offices bustling, this high-risk junction demands immediate attention. Malfunctioning traffic lights pose grave danger for vehicles from HSR to Marathahalli and Sarjapur to Marathahalli routes.

Inequitable enforcement
Commercial Street



An eye-opening snapshot of the disparity in adherence to rules. The rules seem to apply only to ordinary people and not to the police. They do not wear safety belts while driving.

Drain pain
JP Nagar



There is no provision for the rainwater to flow opposite Apollo Pharmacy in JP Nagar 7th Phase, even though the road has recently been tarred.



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STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

NATURE HAS ITS OWN MIRROR

Waterbirds looking for fish in Doddanekundi lake

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Vijita Asher**



If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com

'Complete your task as ordered here!'

Resident of Vasantha Vallabha Nagar demands park in neighbourhood; warns BBMP over contempt of court

Rachana Ramesh
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

A resident of Vasantha Vallabha Nagar has warned the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for not developing a park in the neighbourhood despite a High Court order mandating them to do so.

PS Gachhinakatti, a retired ACP officer, told Bangalore Mirror that the BBMP had requested the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to allow the municipal body to construct parks on land above the Tataguni-Kaveri drinking water line. He said that four parks were planned to be built in areas where the line runs, such as the ISRO Layout and Kumaraswamy Layout, along with the park in Vasantha Vallabha Nagar. After the BWSSB provided a No Objection Certificate (NOC), the BBMP went on with the works for other parks, while the Vasantha Vallabha Nagar park has not received enough attention.

Gachhinakatti said that after his multiple reminders sent via post since 2019, he did not receive any response or acknowledgment from the BBMP, so he filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL).

"The High Court took note of the negligence over the past three years and also saw that funds were not allocated for the purpose," he said, adding that the High Court



The park is being built on land above Tataguni-Kaveri drinking water line

ordered the BBMP to take up the work immediately.

The BBMP soon issued a work order of Rs 14 crore, involving the development of the park as well as other civic projects such as asphaltting and drainage in the area.

"They began the work only in October last year, and the order from the High Court was out as early as March. They have made a pathway and put up 32 cement chairs. The park cannot be opened after dark as it does not have access to electricity, and children and women are forced to go to their homes in order to attend nature's call. It does not have gym equipment, which is an attractive feature for the youth in the neighbourhood," he explained.

Furthermore, he stressed that the municipal body must have created a specific work order for the park and provided a copy to him for accountability purposes.

Gachhinakatti has warned that he will move against the BBMP for contempt of court if the park is not completed with all the required basic facilities.

DID YOU KNOW?



Indian cricketer Roger Michael Humphrey Binny, popularly known as Roger Binny, was born in Bengaluru on July 19, 1955. He made his test debut at M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. This debut was against Pakistan, where he showcased his versatility as an all-rounder. He gained fame for his remarkable bowling displays during the 1983 Cricket World Cup, where he achieved the title of the highest wicket-taker. He then took 18 wickets. Later, he repeated this feat in the 1985 World Series Cricket Championship in Australia, where he secured 17 wickets. He also served as president of the Karnataka State Cricket Association.

GET HEARD WITH

MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAP THE CHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

According to you, which scheme brought by the new government is best and why?



Arvind Sethi, BM Reader

As a Bengalurean, I am delighted to share my thoughts on the Gruha Lakshmi scheme introduced by the new government. This scheme, which offers a monthly allowance of 2,000 to households headed by women, is a significant step towards empowering women.



Rajiv Singh Yadav, BM Reader

The Yuva Nidhi scheme, a forward-thinking initiative aimed at providing a monthly allowance to unemployed graduates and diploma holders, holds tremendous promise for empowering our youth and addressing the pressing issue of unemployment.



Mike Murali, BM Reader

The Shakti scheme is a ground-breaking initiative, offering free travel on government buses within the state for women. It is a significant stride towards empowering women and promoting inclusivity in our society.



Karehalli Ullas GR, BM Reader

The Gruha Lakshmi scheme offers Rs 2,000 to middle- and lower-class women. When this amount is received by them, they tend to spend it on cooking appliances and daily necessities, thus boosting the market and contributing to a circular economy.



Aditya Kamble, BM Reader

The Gruha Jyothi scheme enables households to use electricity for essential purposes like lighting and cooking, thereby improving economic activity in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts.



Chetan Singh, BM Reader

I vouch for the Shakti scheme, which offers free bus travel to women in Karnataka. This not only encourages the use of public transport but also empowers women by providing them with greater mobility.

SPEAK TO US

In your opinion, how can underpasses in Bengaluru be kept clean during monsoon?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on **9591233247**

CITY IN SOLIDARITY WITH MANIPUR

Families back home always on their mind

Manipuris in B'luru talk of anxiety caused by violence, disruptions in communication

The state of Manipur has been grappling with persistent violence in recent times, raising concerns among Manipuri residents living in Bengaluru. With thousands of Manipuri families residing in the city, their worries about the safety and well-being of their loved ones back home have become increasingly significant.

Bengaluru, often referred to as India's Silicon Valley, has been a melting pot of cultures, attracting people from all corners of the country, including Manipur. While the city has offered these residents new opportunities and a vibrant community, their hearts remain intertwined with their homeland, where their families and kin still reside.

The recent upsurge in violence and conflicts in Manipur has left many Manipuri residents of Bengaluru anxious and deeply concerned. For many, the inability to be physically present with their families during such challenging times only intensifies their concerns. "How would you feel if you are treated as a guest in your own house, where you are not allowed to move around freely, forcing you to stay confined to one room? This is exactly how we feel. All we are asking for is equality and dignity, nothing more, nothing less," said Mr Arun, a Manipuri citizen from Bengaluru.

Frequent disruptions of internet and mobile networks in Manipur have further exacerbated the situation, hindering communication and causing distress and helplessness among Manipuri residents in the city, who struggle to stay updated on their families'



On Friday, Bengalureans gathered in front of Town Hall to raise their voice against apathy towards situation in Manipur

well-being. "Most of the time, my family doesn't even get to know what is happening in the state. I find out information from the news, and it is me informing them about whatever is happening instead of them telling me about the state," expressed Ranjana Thiyam, a social activist and Head of the Media and Publicity Team of Manipuri Meitei Association, Bengaluru.

This community has now come together to support each other through community organisations, student unions, and cultural associations, providing a platform for expressing concerns, sharing information, and offering assistance. In addition to providing emotional support, the community has been actively raising

awareness about the violence and conflicts in Manipur. They strive to shed light on the situation through peaceful protests, campaigns, and social media initiatives, urging authorities to prioritise peace and stability in their home state. "The Manipuri community in Bengaluru yearns for peace and stability in their homeland. They implore the authorities and stakeholders to initiate dialogues, mediate conflicts, and work towards a lasting resolution. We advocate for a society where their families can live without fear, ensuring a brighter and safer future for generations to come," said Patrick Laishram, a fitness trainer.

Amidst the ongoing violence in Manipur, Manipuri residents in



Bengaluru express their deep emotional bonds with their families. The challenges in staying connected highlight the need for compassion and support. The united efforts of the Manipuri community in Bengaluru stand as a testament to their enduring spirit and resilience in the face of adversity.

-Debayan Sen

Petition with 4 demands gathers steam

| Abhijeet Kabad
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

After a shocking video went viral on social media, showing a mob of men parading two naked women in Manipur's Kangpokpi, citizens across the nation are rallying for justice. The viral video has shaken the consciousness of most citizens online, similar to the Nirbhaya incident 11 years ago. Responding to this tragic incident, one concerned citizen has taken a significant step by launching an online petition, presenting four essential demands for the victims.



Archana KR, a Nguvi change leader, has raised an online petition on change.org which has received over 80,000 almost 1 lakh online signatures. She told BM, "I started this petition after watching the video, to contribute from our city. We group of changemakers have started the petition. Our primary demands are for the arrest, without bail, of all those involved in the heinous act. We are calling for justice to be expedited through a fast-track court. Thirdly, we demand a thorough probe and punishment for officials who neglected their duty, as it has been 35 days since the incident came to light. The Prime Minister and Chief Minister addressed the incident only yesterday. Lastly, we urge the authorities to provide security to vulnerable communities in the state." She added that some incidents get reported and some go unnoticed. "It's happening in places in rural Karnataka like Belagavi. I recently learned about a case where a girl was killed just as she stepped out of her home for sanitation. Whether rooted in communal or political motives, women continue to be targeted. We must raise voices to prevent such tragedies."



Former minister PGR Sindya, members of Women's Voice protest at Freedom Park

PM Modi should speak 'inside the House and not outside'

Cong prez says House is functioning so all leaders must give statements to its members first

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should have given a statement 'inside the House and not outside' on the situation in Manipur.

Prime Minister on Thursday expressed pain and anger over the incident in which two women were paraded in the nude in Manipur. Terming the incident as "shameful for any civil society," PM Modi addressing reporters before the commencement of the Parliament Monsoon Session in the national capital said

that "No accused will be spared, we will never forgive those who are behind this."

Congress chief Kharge said, "PM Modi made a statement about Manipur outside the House whereas he had to make a statement inside the House first and then could have given it outside but he has already made a statement outside."

He said that when the House is functioning all the leaders should first give statements to their members and then outside as it is the lawmakers' duty.

"PM Modi showed his failure on this," Kharge said.

The Congress and opposition leaders are demanding a statement from the Prime Minister inside the House during the ongoing Monsoon session.



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge took to Twitter to make a point

Earlier in the day, Kharge took to Twitter and said, "@narendramodiji,

you did not make a statement inside the Parliament yesterday. If you were

angry then instead of making false equivalence with Congress-governed states, you could have first dismissed your Chief Minister of Manipur. INDIA expects you to make an elaborate statement in the Parliament today, not just on one incident, but on the 80-day violence that your government in the state and the centre has presided upon, looking absolutely helpless and remorseless."

Hitting out at the Central government further, Congress MP reiterated the demand by Opposition parties urging PM Modi to break his silence inside the House.

Meanwhile, the proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha faced adjournments for the second consecutive day amid uproar over the Manipur incident.

-ANI



TAME GAME

Eliminating bias in AI may be impossible – but it can be tamed



When I asked ChatGPT for a joke about Sicilians the other day, it implied that Sicilians are stinky.

As somebody born and raised in Sicily, I reacted to ChatGPT's joke with disgust. But at the same time, my computer scientist brain began spinning around a seemingly simple question: Should ChatGPT and other artificial intelligence systems be allowed to be biased?

You might say "Of course not!" And that would be a reasonable response. But there are some researchers, like me, who argue the opposite: AI systems like ChatGPT should indeed be biased – but not in the way you might think.

Removing bias from AI is a laudable goal, but blindly eliminating biases can have unintended consequences. Instead, bias in AI can be controlled to achieve a higher goal: fairness.

Uncovering bias in AI

As AI is increasingly integrated into everyday technology, many people agree that addressing bias in AI is an important issue. But what does "AI bias" actually mean?

Computer scientists say an AI model is biased if it unexpectedly produces skewed results. These results could exhibit prejudice against individuals or groups, or otherwise not be in line with positive human values like fairness and truth. Even small divergences from expected behavior can have a "butterfly effect," in which seemingly minor biases can be amplified by generative AI and have far-reaching consequences.

Bias in generative AI systems can come from a variety of sources. Problematic training data

can associate certain occupations with specific genders or perpetuate racial biases. Learning algorithms themselves can be biased and then amplify existing biases in the data.

But systems could also be biased by design. For example, a company might design its generative AI system to prioritise formal over creative writing, or to specifically serve government industries, thus inadvertently reinforcing existing biases and excluding different views. Other societal factors, like a lack of regulations or misaligned financial incentives, can also lead to AI biases.

The challenges of removing bias

It's not clear whether bias can – or even should – be entirely eliminated from AI systems.

Imagine you're an AI engineer and you notice your model produces a stereotypical response, like Sicilians being "stinky." You might think that the solution is to remove some bad examples in the training data, maybe jokes about the smell of Sicilian food. Recent research has identified how to perform this kind of "AI neurosurgery" to deemphasise associations between certain concepts.

But these well-intentioned changes can have unpredictable, and possibly negative, effects. Even small variations in the training data or in an AI model configuration can lead to significantly different system outcomes, and these changes are impossible to predict in advance. You don't know what other associations your AI system has learned as a consequence of "unlearning" the bias you just addressed.

Other attempts at bias mitiga-

tion run similar risks.

An AI system that is trained to completely avoid certain sensitive topics could produce incomplete or misleading responses. Misguided regulations can worsen, rather than improve, issues of AI bias and safety. Bad actors could evade safeguards to elicit malicious AI behaviors – making phishing scams more convincing or using deepfakes to manipulate elections.

With these challenges in mind, researchers are working to improve data sampling techniques and algorithmic fairness, especially in settings where certain sensitive data is not available. Some companies, like OpenAI, have opted to have human workers annotate the data.

On the one hand, these strategies can help the model better align with human values. However, by implementing any of these approaches, developers also run the risk of introducing new cultural, ideological or political biases.

Controlling biases

There's a trade-off between reducing bias and making sure that the AI system is still useful and accurate. Some researchers, including me, think that generative AI systems should be allowed to be biased – but in a carefully controlled way.

For example, my collaborators and I developed techniques that let users specify what level of bias an AI system should tolerate. This model can detect toxicity in written text by accounting for

As AI is increasingly integrated into everyday technology, many people agree that addressing bias in AI is an important issue

in-group or cultural linguistic norms. While traditional approaches can inaccurately flag some posts or comments written in African-American English as offensive and by LGBTQ+ communities as toxic, this "controllable" AI model provides a much fairer classification.

Controllable – and safe – generative AI is important to ensure that AI models produce outputs that align with human values, while still allowing for nuance and flexibility.

Toward fairness

Even if researchers could achieve bias-free generative AI, that would be just one step toward the broader goal of fairness. The pursuit of fairness in generative AI requires a holistic approach – not only better data processing, annotation and debiasing algorithms, but also human collaboration among developers, users and affected communities.

As AI technology continues to proliferate, it's important to remember that bias removal is not a one-time fix. Rather, it's an ongoing process that demands constant monitoring, refinement and adaptation. Although developers might be unable to easily anticipate or contain the butterfly effect, they can continue to be vigilant and thoughtful in their approach to AI bias.

—Emilio Ferrara,
University of Southern California
(The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Super dodgers

Lucky gene

People who get Covid-19 but never develop symptoms, known as super dodgers, may have a hereditary advantage. According to a new study headed by UC San Francisco researchers, they are more than twice as likely as individuals who become symptomatic to contain a specific gene variation that aids in virus eradication.

Mystery solved

The paper, published July, 19, 2023 in Nature, offers the first evidence that there is a genetic basis for asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2. The research helps to solve the mystery of why some people can be infected without ever getting sick from Covid-19.

Human leukocyte antigen

The secret lies with the human leukocyte antigen (HLA), or protein markers that signal the immune system. A mutation in one of the genes coding for HLA appears to help virus-killing T cells identify SARS-CoV-2 and launch a lighting attack. The T cells of some people who carry this variant can identify the novel coronavirus, even if they have never encountered it before, thanks to its resemblance to the seasonal cold viruses they already know.

Advantage

The discovery points to new targets for drugs and vaccines. "If you have an army that's able to recognise the enemy early, that's a huge advantage," explained the study's lead researcher, Jill Hollenbach. "It's like having soldiers that are prepared for battle and already know what to look for, and that these are the bad guys."

The mutation

The mutation – HLA-B*15:01 – is quite common, carried by about 10% of the study's population. It doesn't prevent the virus from infecting cells but, rather, prevents people from developing any symptoms.

—ANI

Been there, don that

V Chandrasekhar debuts as a director in Sandalwood with this movie that showcases underworld dons of Bengaluru. The movie begins with Seena, a staunch follower of another rowdy Bharath Shetty, screaming and shouting after receiving the news about the murder of Shetty by Kumara alias Don Kumara (V Chandrasekhar). He visits another rowdy Jayanna. Both try to locate Kumara. They come to know that a journalist is aware of Kumara's whereabouts. They kidnap the journalist and beat him black and blue, to force him to spill the beans on Kumara.

The journalist narrates the

circumstances that led to Kumara becoming a killer. At this juncture, the director introduces a flashback to explain how Kumara, during his childhood, was punished by parents and teachers for no fault of his own. And how he was sent to prison for beating his classmates and headmaster. After being released from the prison, Kumara tries to focus on education. Sneha (Sahana Malathkar), the sister of Mohan Rai, a notorious rowdy, wants to love him but he rejects her proposal. Later, he falls in love with his classmate Bhavya (Prakruthi Kaustubha). However, the rowdy elements will not allow him to focus on

education. His parents disowned him as they were not able to cope with rowdy elements' harassment. What happens to Don Kumara and his lover Bhavya is what the movie is all about.

The movie takes off well from the beginning. Master Preetam has acted well. His dialogue delivery and body language are good enough to make him an actor in Sandalwood in the future. His performance in a scene where he becomes a nuisance to his parents and class teacher is worth praise.

Chandrasekhar is convincing as the don of Bengaluru. He is very good in action scenes. He can be much better by honing his

acting

skills.

He seems

a bit weak

with the

sentimental

and romantic

scenes. Sahana

Malathkar and

Prakruthi

Kaustubha

provide good support.

Mimicry Gopi, as a chief

minister imitating

Siddaramaiah, has acted well.

A special appearance by

Namrita Malla is an added

attraction. Music by Arav

Rishik is passable.

All in all, it is worth

watching for those who want

to know the underworld

dons of Bengaluru.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

DON KUMARA

3.0

RATING

★★★★★

• **DIRECTOR** Nagesh Kumar

• **ACTORS** V Chandrasekhar,

Sahana Malathkar, Prakruthi

Kaustubha, Mimicry Gopi

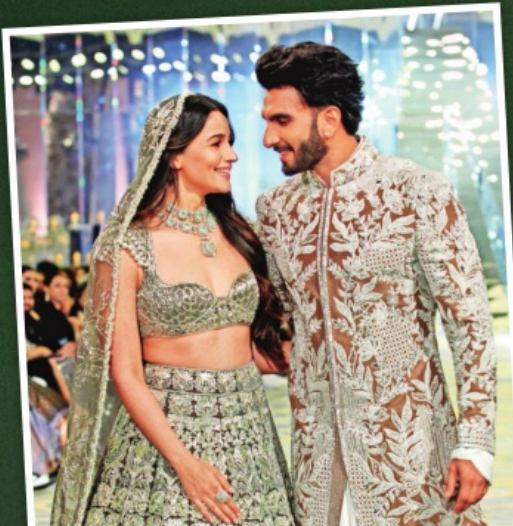
• **CERTIFICATION** A

• **Duration** 129 minutes



SHOW-STOPPER AND HIS CHEERLEADER

DP-Ranveer steal the show, Alia dazzles



Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt were showstoppers at Manish Malhotra's Bridal Couture show, on Thursday night. Deepika Padukone being the doting wife, came to cheer for her husband! While Ranveer was dressed in a silver work sherwani, Alia wore a black and silver glittery bridal wear with a veil. But Deepika also stole the show in her white saree look with a silver backless blouse. The actress dropped some pictures and she wrote, "In the game of clothes, a saree will always win."

While the actress looks gorgeous in these pictures, it's Ranveer Singh's flirtatious comment which has won hearts of netizens.

While walking the ramp, Ranveer took a pause when he saw Deepika. He went up to her and kissed her on the cheek while she smiled wide and flaunted those dimples. Ranveer's mother was sitting next to DP and he touched her feet. Ranveer is currently promoting Karan's film 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani' with Alia. The film also starring Dharmendra, Jaya Bachchan and Dharmendra is set to release on July 28.

—ETimes



Troll or fan? She'll find out

Actress Taapsee Pannu has recently unveiled her very own Non-Fungible Token (NFT) platform called "taapseeclub.com", which she says will help in separating the faceless trolls from the true fans.

The purpose behind launching NFTs is to create a positive platform for Taapsee's fans worldwide, allowing them to gain a glimpse into her life and elevate their fandom to new heights. By becoming a member, individuals will have the opportunity to experience being on her film sets, celebrate special occasions alongside her, engage in interactions, and much more.

Talking about the same Taapsee shares, "In today's cluttered world, it becomes crucial to distinguish the content we share with those genuinely interested in actors and supportive of their

endeavours. This helps separate the faceless trolls from the true fans.

The actor has already organised an exclusive event to celebrate her birthday, where renowned comedians like Abish Mathew, Angad Ranyal, and Gurleen Pannu will be present along with RJ and actor Abhilash Thapliyal. She added: "I have decided to launch NFTs exclusively for genuine individuals, providing them with an opportunity to get to know me on a more personal level. I aim to present a distinct social media experience for my NFT members, one that differs from my public presence."

"As an extrovert who enjoys interacting with people, I find social media to be too toxic for expressing my true self. It is beneficial to have a close-knit community of individuals who genuinely wish the best for you and contribute to personal growth."

— IANS



Ariana dating 'Wicked' co-star

Singer Ariana Grande is moving on after her split from husband Dalton Gomez.

The 'Thank U, Next' singer, 30, is dating Broadway alum Ethan Slater, her co-star in the upcoming film adaptation of 'Wicked', sources confirmed to People.

"Ariana and Dalton separated in January," one source says. "She and Ethan recently began dating, and he is separated from his wife."

Grande is set to play Glinda in Universal's film adaptation of the Broadway musical, while Slater, 31, will play Boq, the love interest of Elphaba's sister Nessarose.

The movie began shooting in the UK last year and was scheduled for release in November 2024, though it remains unclear if the SAG-AFTRA strike will affect its premiere. — IANS



There's no deadline, take it easy, women urged

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

received any message providing a time slot for the Bangalore One centre. Consequently, women who have not received the message also turned up at the centre, leading to a lot of confusion.

A staff member at the Bangalore One centre explained, "We are trying our best to provide the service. For those who

have taken an appointment, we are handling the registration through the Seva Sindhu application. For those without an appointment, we are trying to fix appointments using mobile phones. If only those with appointments turn up at the Bangalore One centre, then there wouldn't be such a rush."

Devika R, another woman beneficiary, shared her experi-

ence, "I have brought all the necessary documents and have been waiting since morning. However, the wait is only getting longer."

At some centres across the state, the police have been deployed to control the crowd.

Reacting to this situation, an official said, "We request people not to rush, as there is no last date for registration. For example, during Gruha Jyothi, everyone want-

ed to register initially, and the server crashed. However, we gave sufficient time for people to register. In fact, there is time until July 27 for people to register, so they can avail of free power for July. Even if someone misses the deadline, they can get registered next month as well. As there is no deadline for Gruha Lakshmi, we want people not to show any urgency."



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personal

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I Shuaib Ahmed S/O, Rahmathulla R/o No 33 10th Cross Someshwaranagar Jayanagar 1st Block Bangalore 560011 have changed my name to Shuaib Ahmed

I,NIDHI Ruhel D/o AL Sharma R/o 10021, Prestige Shantiniketan Apartment, Whitefield, Bangalore-560048 have changed my name to Nidhi Sharma for all purposes.

I, RAVIKUMAR SANKAR S/o Shankar Ramalingam R/o No. 2039, Ground floor, 18th B Main, 7th cross, near Ganesha Temple JP Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore Karnataka-560078 have changed my name to RAVIKUMAR SHANKAR for all purposes.

I Shilpa R/o A 52 Bysani Skyways Jayanagar 1st Block Bengaluru 560011 I declare that I have changed my minor daughter's name from Anika to Anika Satyanarayan for all purposes

I Kanthimathy Veera Subramonia Sarma W/o Venkiteswaran Jayachandran R/o No B-601, 5th Floor, Zen Gardens Artillery Road, Ulsoor Bengaluru 560008 have changed my name to Kanthimathy Jayachandran For All Purposes.

I Venkateshappa R/o #79, Haralakunte Village, Harati Post, kolar-563101, have changed my name to Venkateshappa V

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'INDIA' placards are now in Parliament

Opposition alliance pressing for PM statement on Manipur to stage joint dharna on Monday

#NEW DELHI

"INDIA" placards appeared in the Lok Sabha for the first time on Friday with members of the newly formed opposition alliance waving them as they pressed for a statement from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the situation in Manipur.

Members of the Congress and Left parties, among others, stormed into the well of the House carrying placards that read "INDIA wants reply, not silence", "INDIA wants PM to speak in Parliament".

This was the first time placards carrying the name of the opposition alliance appeared in the Lok Sabha.

"Manipur is burning, PM speak about it" read a placard waved by a Congress member in the well of the House.

The opposition alliance is scheduled to stage a joint dharna near the Gandhi statue in Parliament complex on Monday.

Twenty-six opposition parties on Tuesday announced an alliance to take on the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The opposition parties, including arch rivals such as Congress, Trinamool Congress and Left parties, have named the



Union Minister of Women and Child Development and AYUSH Mahendra Munjpara speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Monsoon Session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Friday

front – Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA).

Members of the opposition alliance have been coordinating strategies to take on the BJP-led government in the ongoing Monsoon session and insisting on a state-

ment from the prime minister in Parliament on the Manipur situation.

Manipur has been engulfed in ethnic violence since May 3. More than 160 people have lost their lives and several have been injured in the violence so far. PTI

Heavy rains pummel Mumbai



#MUMBAI

Heavy rains lashed Mumbai on Friday, inundating low-lying areas and disrupting vehicular traffic in the city and its suburbs. Most parts of the city and suburbs witnessed a heavy spell of rains, which caused waterlogging in some low-lying areas at Andheri, Kurla, Ghatkopar, Chembur and some other places. The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) Ltd diverted buses on more than 12 routes due to waterlogging in Sion in the afternoon, an official said.

Apart from this, motorists and pedestrians were severely inconvenienced as the Andheri subway was closed for traffic due to waterlogging. The railway authorities maintained that trains on the Western, Central and Harbour lines were running normally, while the commuters complained of a delay of up to 10 to 15 minutes in the services.

As per Meteorological Department's weather warning issued at 1 pm, "moderate to intense spells of rain are likely to occur at isolated places" of Mumbai in the next three to four hours, a civic official said. However, the city recorded 30 mm average rainfall in 24 hours ending 8 am, even as a warning of heavy to very heavy rains was issued for Thursday, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's data revealed. PTI

Lapses in signalling, circuit-alteration caused Odisha train accident: Rail Minister

#NEW DELHI

The lapses in the 'signalling-circuit-alteration' leading to wrong signals caused the tragic triple train accident in Odisha's Balasore district on June 2, said Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Friday.

The Union Minister further said that the Commissioner of Railway Safety under the Ministry of Civil Aviation has completed its inquiry into the Balasore train accident, which claimed 295 lives.

"The rear-collision was due to the lapses in the signalling-circuit-alteration carried out at the North Signal Goomty (of the station) in the past, and during the execution of the signalling work related to replacement of Electric Lifting Barrier for level crossing gate no. 94 at the Station. These lapses resulted in wrong signalling to Train No. 12841 wherein the UP Home Signal indicated a Green aspect for run-through movement on the UP main line of the station, but the crossover connecting the UP main line to the UP loop line (crossover 17A/B) was set to the UP loop line; the wrong signalling resulted in the Train No.12841 traversing on the UP loop line, and eventual rear-collision with the Goods train (No. N/DDIP) stand-



ing there," Ashwini Vaishnaw told the Rajya Sabha.

The minister was replying to questions by Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader John Brittas and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Sanjay Singh in Rajya Sabha on the tragedy.

The tragic incident of the triple train accident on June 2 involving the Chennai-bound Coromandel Express, the Howrah-bound Shalimar Express and a goods train.

He further said that 295 passengers lost their lives while 176 sustained grievous injuries, 451 suffered simple injuries and 180 received First Aid Treatment and left.

"In the said accident 41 deceased persons have not yet been identified," Vaishnaw told the Upper House. ANI

Defamation case: Next hearing on Rahul Gandhi's plea fixed for Aug 4

#NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday sought responses from former Gujarat minister Purnesh Modi and the state government on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's appeal challenging the high court verdict that declined to put on hold his conviction in a defamation case over his "Modi surname" remark.

A bench of Justices BR Gavai and PK Mishra listed the matter for further hearing on August 4 and issued notices to Purnesh Modi, who had filed a criminal defamation case against Gandhi over his "How come all thieves have Modi as the common surname?" remark made during a poll rally at Kolar in Karnataka on April 13, 2019, and the Gujarat government on Gandhi's appeal.

"The limited question at this stage is whether the conviction deserves to be stayed," the bench observed.

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Gandhi, said the Congress leader has suffered for 111 days, lost one Parliament session and is about to lose another session.

Singhvi said the only urgency is that by-election for Wayanad constituency from where Gandhi was elected and



was later disqualified from Lok Sabha upon his conviction and two-year sentence in the defamation case, can be announced at any moment.

At the outset Justice Gavai made it clear that his late father RS Gavai though not a Congress member was closely associated with the party for more than four decades and was Member of Parliament and MLA with its support. He said his brother is also a politician. "If anyone has any problem with my background then please let me know", Justice Gavai told Singhvi and senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani, appearing for Purnesh Modi.

Both Singhvi and Jethmalani said that although they knew these facts, they don't have any objection to Justice Gavai hearing this matter. The apex court asked Jethmalani and counsel for Gujarat government to file their replies. PTI

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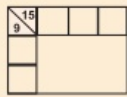
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Two buckets of equal capacity are full of a mixture of milk and water. In the first the mixture of milk and water is 1:7 and in the second it is 3:8. Now both the mixtures are mixed in a bigger container. What is the resultant ratio of milk to water?

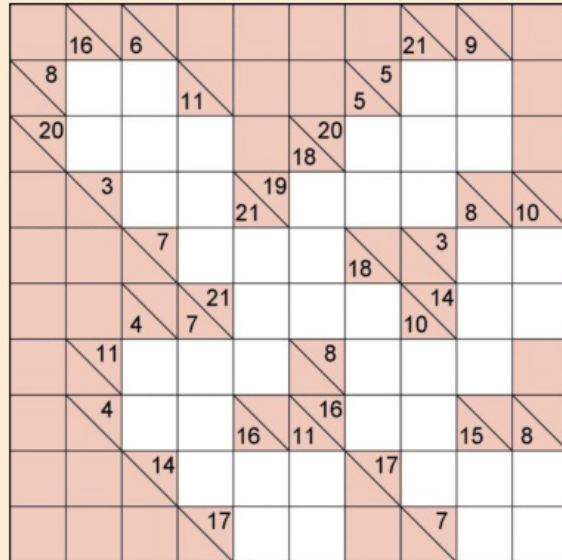
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

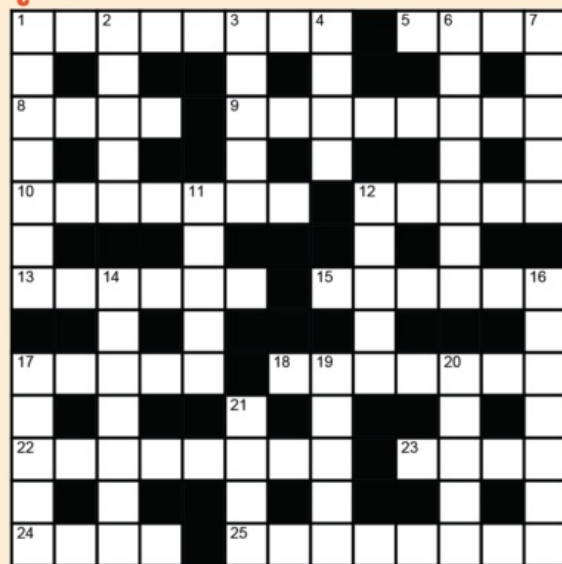


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 1 Decade (3,5)
- 5 Similar (4)
- 8 Talk wildly (4)
- 9 Where in Karnataka
Shiravati River drops 253
meters (3,5)
- 10 Assassination (7)
- 12 Limited in size (5)
- 13 Over there (6)
- 15 Inequitable (6)
- 17 Wind toys (5)
- 18 Accompanies (7)
- 22 Author (8)
- 23 Norse god (4)
- 24 ___ facto : by that very
fact ? (4)
- 25 Accomplishments or
achievements (8)

DOWN

- 1 Jailer? (7)
- 2 Fictional work (5)
- 3 One of the Pandavas (5)
- 4 Long story (4)
- 6 Largest city in India (7)
- 7 Of the nose (5)
- 11 Articles (5)
- 12 To do with sound (5)
- 14 Inhabitants or nationals of
a country? (7)
- 16 Feels indignant or bitter
about (7)
- 17 Alaskan peninsula (5)
- 19 Exercise move (3,2)
- 20 Semi-diameters (5)
- 21 Swing music (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: M EQUALS G
WUQXUTM FC ND JGUDTBQ
UQ PLUOZ WCGZ, NLF JGUDT-
BQXUH UQ E QKQW GUHDTUTM
JGLUF.



Linemaro

Without you I lose myself. Without you I find myself wanting to become lost again



Mindchow

He who overcomes his desires is braver than he who overcomes his enemies



Joke of the day

Who makes suits and eats spinach? Popeye the tailorman

Loop

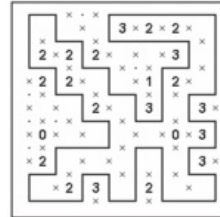
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

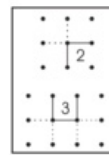
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

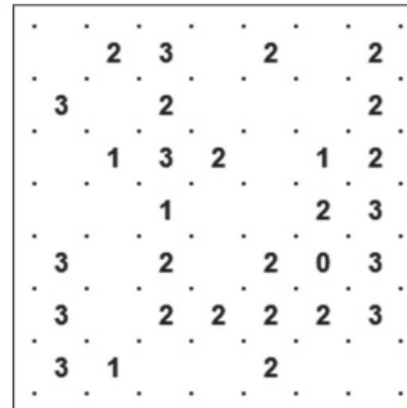
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



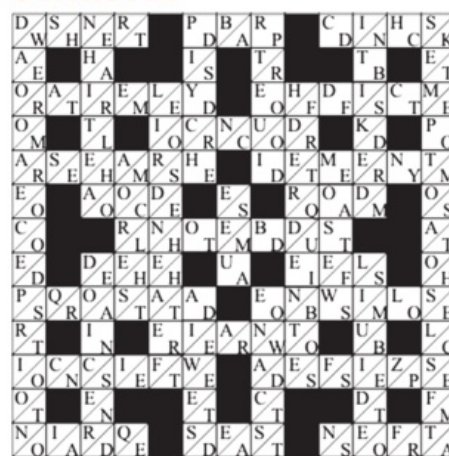
(Fig A)



(Fig B)
Not Allowed



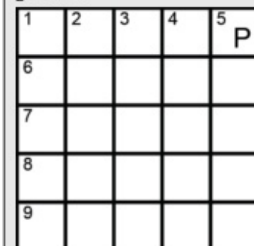
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

- 1 Claps; 6 Clean;
- 7 Ma our; 8 In MIB;
- 9 Y Gala

DOWN

- 1 Glan C; 2 A mail;
- 3 On may; 4 As cub;
- 5 Plier

Mensapuzzle

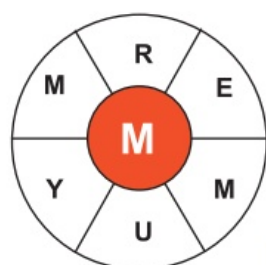
Which two letters should replace the question marks?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding



SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ = 14

1 3 3 9

Medium

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ = 10

2 6 7 9

Hard

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ = 28

2 8 9 6

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Clock is larger; 2. Lamp is missing; 3. Boy's hair is different; 4. Boy's ear is showing; 5. Thumb is moved; 6. Knob on drawer is missing.

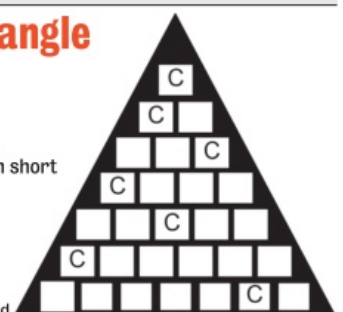
Riddler

In a recent survey, 15 per cent of cars on the road in morning traffic had two or more people. Of those cars with only one person, 60 per cent had a woman. What percentage of all cars had just one male and no females?

Alpha triangle

- 1 Vitamin type
- 2 Company, abbr.
- 3 Fabulous flier
- 4 Apple center
- 5 Verso's opposite
- 6 Flying machine, in short
- 7 Protrude

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

dyson

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